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[Lithuanian constitution as of April 7, 1948]

n) Labor legislation; legislation concerning marriage and the family;

o) Direction of public health;

p) Direction of social maintenance;

q) Direction of elementary, secondary and higher education;

r) Direction of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of the Lithuanian SSR, and administration of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of all-Republican importance;

s) Direction and organization of physical culture and sports;

t) Organization of the judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

u) Granting the rights of citizenship of the Lithuanian SSR;

v) Amnesty and pardon of citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

w) Establishment of the representation of the Lithuanian SSR in international relations;

x) Organization of the military formations of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

Art. 20. The highest organ of state power in the Lithuanian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 21. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Lithuanian SSR voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 15,000 of the population.

Art. 22. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Lithuanian SSR in accordance with articles 13 and 19 of the Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR, in so far as they do not by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Lithuanian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, and the Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 23. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 24. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR by a simple majority vote.

Art. 25. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are published in the Lithuanian and Russian languages over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and two Vice-Chairmen.

Art. 27. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

Art. 28. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR twice a year.

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643 644 Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and eleven members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 30. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for all its activities.

643 Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR;

b) Issues decrees;

c) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Lithuanian SSR in operation;

d) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

645 e) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, and likewise decisions and orders of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies, if they do not conform to law;

f) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR;

g) Confers titles of honour of the Lithuanian SSR;

h) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

i) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Lithuanian SSR to foreign states;

j) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

646 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit in any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR not later than three months after the elections.

Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR appoints the Government of the Lithuanian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Lithuanian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 41. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of Republican and Union-Republican Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR and of other institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and directs the work of the authorized representatives of all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Lithuanian SSR, transmits it to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval and adopts measures to carry it out;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR and draws up the local budgets of the Lithuanian SSR; transmits the state budget to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval and adopts measures for the fulfilment of the state and local budgets of the Lithuanian SSR;

d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

[625] Art. 67. The all-Union Ministries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the
632 Lithuanian SSR and the Ministry of State Security of the Lithuanian SSR set up their Administrations under the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies in accordance with the conditions of the district and on the basis of the laws of the USSR and of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 68. The Departments and Administrations of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR.

633 Art. 69. The city Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its suburban and municipal economy,

- a Department of Local Industry and
- a Department of Agriculture.

Art. 70. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 71. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Shyaulyai and Panevezhis city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these cities and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directly.

631 Art. 72. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

64[illegible] Art. 73. The state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is drawn up by the Council
452 of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval.

[645] Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is published for general information.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

646 652 Art. 74. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 75. The report on the fulfillment of the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and published for general information.

631 652 Art. 76. The budgets of the district, city, volost, small town and apilinki Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 77. In the Lithuanian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR, the District and People's Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

[693] Art. 78. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 79. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Lithuanian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR.

[646] Art. 80. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 81. District Courts are elected by the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies for a term of five years.

Art. 82. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the cities and volosts on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 [563] Art. 83. Judicial proceedings in the Lithuanian SSR are conducted in the Lithuanian and Russian languages, persons not knowing these languages being guaranteed the opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 84. In all Courts of the Lithuanian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to defence.

693 Art. 85. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 86. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Lithuanian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 3, 1948]

666 The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, youth organizations and cultural societies.

Art. 114. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of his Soviet of Working People's Deputies, and he may be recalled at any time upon decision of a majority of the electors in the manner established by law.

Art. 115. Elections to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR are held by election districts on the bases of representation fixed by the Ordinance Concerning Elections to Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter X. Arms, Flag, Capital

18 Art. 116. The state arms of the Lithuanian SSR are a sickle and hammer of gold on a white background in the rays of the rising sun surrounded by ears of grain and oak leaves and with inscriptions in the Lithuanian and Russian languages: "Workers of All Countries, Unite!"

In the upper part of the arms is a five-pointed star and in the lower part, the letters "LTSR".

Art. 117. The state flag of the Lithuanian SSR is of red cloth with a gold sickle and hammer and the gold letters "Lietuvos TSR" in the upper corner near the staff. The ratio of width to length is 1:2.

Art. 118. The capital of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic is the City of Vilnius.

Chapter XI. Procedure for Amending the Constitution

642 Art. 119. The Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR may be amended only by
(46 decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the Supreme Soviet.

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000 Note: The Russian text from which this translation was made was a typed copy authenticated on June 24, 1948 by Mr. S. Pupeikis, Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.